



THE STUMP

Publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society

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Summer 2017

The Lincoln-Douglas Society was founded in 1929 for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the 1858 debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln during their race for the United States Senate.

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THE STUMP is an annual publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032

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"The Stump"

The use of the word "stump" as a metaphor for a platform for political discourse goes back to the earliest days of American history. Just as Douglas argued his political ideas "from every stump in Illinois," the Lincoln-Douglas Society seeks to share information and ideas about one of the key events in our history.



MEDFORD TO DELIVER 2017 SOKUP LECTURE

Dr. Edna Greene Medford of Howard University will deliver the 2017 Richard Sokup Lecture on **Saturday, August 26 4 p.m. at Freeport Public Library.** The event is part of the annual program commemorating Freeport's Lincoln-Douglas Debate of 1858.

Dr. Medford's background can be found page 3 of this issue.

The Sokup Lecture Series was instituted after the passing of **Richard F. Sokup** who served as president of the Lincoln-Douglas Society and who portrayed U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas in re-enactments for many, many years.

The event is open free to the general public.



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2017 MUSIC@DEBATE SQUARE

The Lincoln-Douglas Society's popular "Music@Debate Square" series will continue this summer with three Thursday evenings of free music. All programs begin at **7:00 p.m.**

The **Highland Community College Jazz Band** will kick-off the series on July 20.

Local vocal talent and instrumentalist **Korey Steil** will perform on July 27.

The summer series ends on August 3 with **Southpaw Stance**, returning from last summer's series.

Tim Connors has taken over management of the series, which promises to be one of the best yet.

All three of the programs are free, but a free-will offering will be taken up for the benefit of the musicians.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

SAYING FAREWELL TO OLD FRIENDS

Quentin E. Valkema (1930-2017) Long-time Lincoln-Douglas Society Board of Directors member **Quentin E. Valkema** passed away March 6, 2017 in Freeport. Quent was known to the Society Board as Mr. Music, both for his long-time work with the Freeport Concert Band, as well as his coordinating the musical programs that were often part of events commemorating the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Both for the 1994 C-SPAN re-enactment of the Debate and the 2008 Sesquicentennial events, Quent handled all the arrangements for bringing the First Brigade Band to Freeport. The First Brigade Band is a Civil War re-enactment musical organization. The performances and period balls played by that group were significant enhancements to the festivities and Quent took great pleasure in being involved. Quent was also a collector of Lincoln artifacts and enjoyed sharing his vast collection with friends.



Brooks Davis (L) with Robert Lenz (R)

(Dave Washburn Photography)

Brooks Davis (1926-2016) For decades **John Brooks Davis** was for decades an active member and officer of The Stephen A. Douglas Association. He passed away on Oct. 29, 2016, in Marion, Illinois. For the 2008 Lincoln-Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial he was the official representative of The Stephen A. Douglas Association during the Freeport events. The photo of Books here was taken during the Freeport parade in 2008. Books had an abiding passion for history, speaking on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War across the country. He also spoke about his distant cousin, Jefferson Davis, who was guarded by Brooks' grandfather at Fortress Monroe after the war. He served as the president of several organizations such as the Sons of Union Veterans and the Civil War Round Table.

SIGN RENOVATIONS

This spring the Society undertook the renovation of the two cedar signs which welcome visitors to Debate Square. The one at Douglas Street and State Avenue was repainted while the one on Clark was remade due to deterioration.

The Clark Street sign was originally donated by the Freeport Womens Club and was much older than the one on Douglas. The small plaque denoting the donation has been placed on the new sign.

The total cost for the renovation / replacement was over \$5,000. Donations are being accepted to help cover the costs.

The Lincoln-Douglas Society

President: Edward Finch, Vice President: George Buss
Secretary: Nicole Bauer, Treasurer: Mindy S. Borgmann
Recording Secretary: Carole Dickerson

Board of Directors: Timothy R. Connors, Frank E. "Ned" Furst, Mary M. Hartman, Scott Leiser, Mickey Martin, Sally Noble, Michael Perry, M.D., and Jim Shankland

Board Members Emeritus: Robert Plager & Olga Carlile

Ex Officio Directors: Honorable Jodi Miller, Mayor of Freeport; Connie Sorn, Freeport / Stephenson CVB

SIGN AREA LANDSCAPED

The area around the Lincoln-Douglas Historical Marker located at the corner of Galena and West was re-landscaped through a joint effort of the Lincoln-Douglas Society and the **Freeport Garden Club**.

Overgrown shrubs were removed and the area was seeded with grass. Plans call for flowers to be planted there in the future. The Society contributed 3/4 of the \$400.00 it cost for the work.

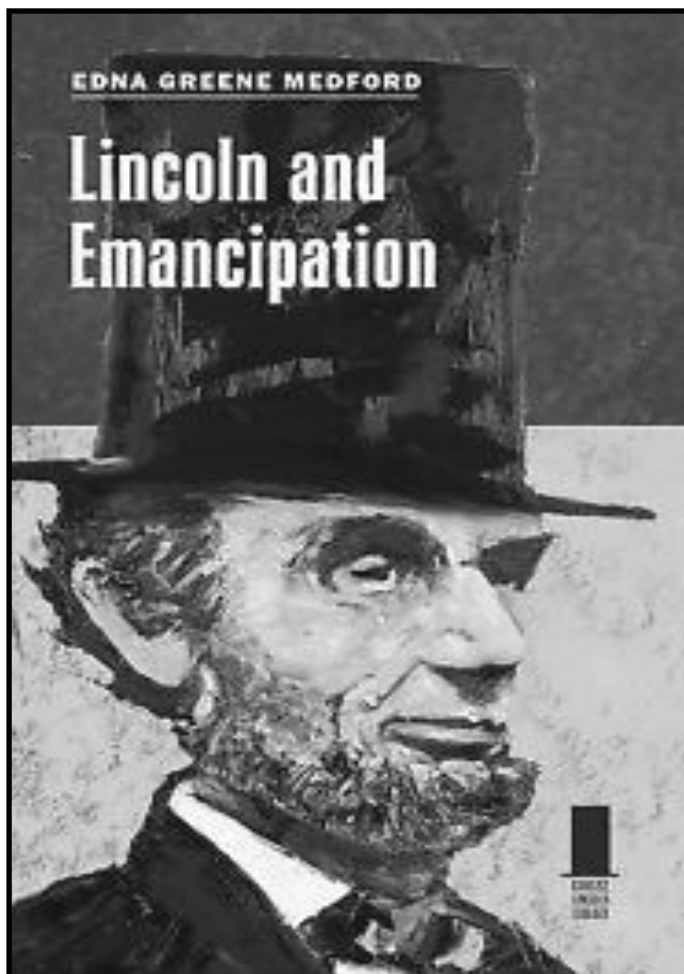
Medford / Sokup Lecture, continued from page 1...

Edna Greene Medford is Professor, current Chair, and former director of the Department of History's graduate and undergraduate programs at Howard University, Washington DC. Specializing in nineteenth century African-American history, she teaches courses in the Jacksonian Era, Civil War and Reconstruction, as well as African-American History to 1877.

Dr. Medford was educated at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Virginia, the University of Illinois (Urbana), and the University of Maryland (College Park), where she received her Ph.D. in United States history. She lectures widely to scholarly and community-based groups and has presented to national and international audiences on topics that range from Alexis de Tocqueville's influence on American politics to community-building among American free blacks in Civil War-era Canada, to African-American responses to Abraham Lincoln's wartime policies.

Dr. Medford has served as the Director for History of New York's African Burial Ground Project and edited the volume *Historical Perspectives of the African Burial Ground: New York Blacks and the Diaspora* (volume 3 of the series, *The New York African Burial Ground: Unearthing the African Presence in Colonial New York*) history report. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on African Americans, especially during the era of the Civil War. Her publications include the co-authored *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views* (2006). She compiled and wrote the introductions to the edited two-volume work *The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War - Volume I*, and *The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War - Volume II*. In 2015 her book *Lincoln and Emancipation* was published.

Dr. Medford has served as a faculty mentor to the Ronald McNair Scholars since 1998, and she has been the faculty sponsor for the campus chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society for 24 years. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of National History Day, Inc., a member of the Executive Committee of the Lincoln Forum, and chairperson of the Scholars Advisory Council at President Lincoln's Cottage at the Armed Services Retirement Home in Washington, DC. She serves on the board of the Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois), and the Abraham Lincoln Institute. Dr. Medford is a 2009 special bicentennial recipient of the Order of Lincoln, an award given by the state of Illinois, for her scholarship on the Sixteenth President.



The Lincoln-Douglas Society
P.O. Box 58
Freeport, IL 61032-0058



LINCOLN & DOUGLAS THIS SUMMER

Twice this summer Judge Douglas and President Lincoln will square-off again in programs at Debate Square. Freeport's own **Tim Connors** (Douglas) and **George Buss** (Lincoln) will be the presenters.

- ♦ **June 17 (Saturday) at 1 p.m.**, the program "A Conversation with Judge Douglas and President Lincoln" will be presented. The original script for this program was written by **Richard F. Soku**.
- ♦ **July 8 (Saturday) at 1 p.m.** the program "The Conversation Continues" will be presented. Both programs will be open to the public free of charge. Those attending are urged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember to renew your Lincoln-Douglas Society membership using the form enclosed. Your continued support is critical to maintaining Debate Square.